[7th January 1954

Deaths due to dysentery in Malabar.

* 386 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of deaths in Malabar in July and August 1953 from diarrhœa and dysentery;

(*b*) whether this death rate is more as compared with last year; and

(*c*) whether the prevalence of an unusual type of dysentery was noticed in Malabar in July or August 1953 or whether the Government's attention was drawn to it by anybody or by the Central Government?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) July 1953—1,797.

August 1953—1,450.

" (*b*) Yes, Sir.

" (*c*) It was noticed in July 1953. The Union Minister for Health and certain gentleman of Malabar wrote to the State Ministers on this matter."

Deaths due to dysentery in Malabar.

* 387 *Q.*—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether reports have reached the Government that a sort of dysentery is prevalent in Malabar and the effect of the same in a majority of cases is fatal;

(*b*) which are the areas affected and how many deaths have occurred up to July 30th, 1953;

(*c*) whether this Government received any communication from the Government of India regarding this and if so, what is the nature of the communication; and

(*d*) what measures the Government have taken to bring this disease under control?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir, but the effect of the disease in the majority of cases was not fatal.

" (*b*) Two hundred and seventy-two villages in South Malabar in the taluks of Ernad, Walluvanad, Palghat and Ponnani, and 78 villages in North Malabar in the taluks of Chirakkal, Kottayam, Kurumbranad, Kozhikode and Wynaad. Four thousand and twelve deaths occurred up to July 1953.

" (*c*) Yes, Sir. A letter was received by me from the Minister for Health, Government of India, referring to the prevalence of the disease in Malabar and asking for information regarding the measures taken by this Government.

" (*d*) Immediately on receipt of information in this regard, an Investigation Unit of the King Institute of Preventive Medicine was specially deputed to Malabar for bacteriological